



TEAM News

Together Everyone Achieves More

Division of Student Support & Innovation and Office of Special Education

February 2016

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Updates on the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA)

On Friday, February 19, 2016, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) held our second training on the new federal law, the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), via WebEx. Superintendent Kirsten Baesler provided overall comments regarding the new law and then the following topics were discussed:

- U.S. Department of Education Guidance Released
- Tentative ESSA Timeline
- State Assessment Update
- Program Improvement Update
- ESSA and Education of Homeless

The WebEx training was recorded and is posted along with all of the handouts on the NDDPI website at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Presentations_Recordings/.

The NDDPI has also generated a Q&A to address the many questions that have been asked regarding the new law. The Q&A is posted on the [reauthorization website](#).

Regional trainings on ESSA are fast approaching. All schools should plan to have representation at one of the three trainings. Information on the new federal law will be shared, and the details for how we will operate during the transition year (2016-2017) will be overviewed at these regional trainings. Online registration can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLWG2YB.

April 7, 2016

**Cambria Hotel & Suites
West Fargo, ND**

April 12, 2016

**Grand Hotel
Minot, ND**

April 13, 2016

**Baymont Inn & Suites
Mandan, ND**

As a reminder, all information regarding the reauthorization can be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Reauthorization/.

Title I Eligibility for 2016-2017

Each year in February, the NDDPI determines eligibility status for Title I funding for the subsequent school year. After eligibility has been determined, we can then use each district's aggregate units for funding purposes.

The Office of Federal Title Programs sent correspondence to all Title I authorized representatives informing them of the status of their aggregate units this week. Each district received a chart comparing last year's aggregate units to the current total. The information provided in the chart identified which districts are eligible for Title I funds in the 2016-2017 school year as well as gauge any potential changes in your district Title I allocation for the 2016-2017 school year until the estimated allocations have been released. If the aggregate units increased from the prior year, the allocation may increase if North Dakota receives more Title I funds as a state. If the aggregate units decreased, the allocation will most likely also decrease. If the numbers did not change much, the allocation will likely remain fairly steady as long as the state's allocation also remains steady.

District: Sample					
	Census (15.5%)	Free Meals (46%)	Reduced Meals (23%)	Foster (15.5%)	Aggregate Units
2014 Data	782	1496	691	64	978.220
2015 Data	933	1724	720	64	1113.175

Census Data for 2016-2017 Allocations

Eligibility for a Title I grant requires a district to have a minimum Formula Count of TEN. The Formula Count is a weighted unit consisting of 15.5% of the census poor count, 46% of the eligible free meal count, 23% of the eligible reduced meal count, and 15.5% of the foster child count. The census poor count is the count of children ages 5-17 who were reported below poverty on the updated federal census.

Each December or January, the USDE sends the NDDPI a chart showing the updated census count for each district in the state. In the past, we were told that there was no disputing the census numbers. However, the USDE now allows districts to review the information and provides an opportunity for districts who believe there may be an error in the data to challenge the data.

The chart with the updated census poor count that is used to determine Title I allocations for the 2016-2017 school year and the memorandum from the USDE are available at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ConApp/ on our website.

The USDE memo contains the email and phone number to use if you would like to challenge the census data. Please note that the deadline to challenge an error is March 8, 2016. Please notify your contact person within the Division of Student Support & Innovation if you intend to challenge the census data.

SES Flexibility for Transitioning to ESSA

Over the past few months, states have received “Dear Colleague” letters from the USDE providing additional guidance for states not operating under ESEA flexibility waivers. In particular, a letter dated February 5, 2016, clarified options regarding the requirements to provide supplemental educational services (SES), public school choice, and the related notice to parents for the 2016-2017 school year.

Although North Dakota is required by the transition provisions in ESSA to continue to implement the same interventions in the 2016-2017 school year for schools that are identified for improvement, states may elect not to require districts to provide SES, public school choice, and the related notice to parents for the 2016-2017 school year.

North Dakota will not require LEAs to provide SES and public school choice in the 2016-2017 school year, so in order to ensure an orderly transition to the ESSA, the state must develop and implement a one-year transition plan for ensuring that LEAs provide alternative supports for the students eligible for SES in the schools with the greatest need (e.g., schools with large numbers or percentages of students eligible for SES, or as defined in the State’s transition plan).

There will be two options for schools that would have been required to offer SES and public school choice:

1. Schools can maintain the status quo and continue to set aside funds for SES and public school choice, or
2. Schools do not need to set aside funds for SES, but will be required to indicate on the consolidated application what interventions will be in place for those students who would have received SES or public school choice.

Further information will be shared with districts, schools, and approved SES providers as it is received. If you have any questions, please email [Lauri Nord](#) or call (701) 328-2282.

AMAO Flexibility

The NDDPI will soon be posting the 2014-2015 English Language Learners (ELL) district achievement results, known as Annual Measurable Achievement Outcomes (AMAO) reports. The AMAOs have been the accountability measures for Title III programs. This year, the AMAO reports are for information purposes only. The NDDPI has been given direction to freeze accountability requirements at this time.

Based on the “Dear Colleague” letter received from Assistant Secretary Ann Whalen, dated December 18, 2015, states are not required to hold districts accountable for their performance against Annual AMAOs 1, 2, and 3 under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by NCLB, for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. The Assistant Secretary also indicates that states must freeze district accountability under Title III based on the most recent AMAO calculations, and continue to provide LEAs with the corresponding supports and interventions in the remaining months of the 2015-2016 school year and the 2016-2017 school year. This means the NDDPI will continue to provide professional development opportunities, technical assistance, and monitoring activities throughout the transition period.

Office of Indian/Multicultural Education Sponsors Speakers at NDASSP

The Office of Indian/Multicultural Education in the Division of Student Support & Innovation will be sponsoring two renowned speakers for the upcoming NDCEL North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principal (NDASSP) conference to be held March 22-24, 2016, at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck. Registration information is available at <https://ndcel.memberclicks.net/>.

The featured speakers include:

♦ **Stephanie Feldner**

Beyond the Carrot and the Stick: Attendance Strategies That Work

Presentation Date and Time: Thursday, March 24 at 9:00-9:45 am

School Policies often focus exclusively on incentives and punishments to promote school attendance. While those strategies work for most students, what more can we do to remove barriers and make our schools places where students want to be? This session will explore strategies that have proven to be successful at one of the MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough Schools, serving students on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin.

Stephanie Feldner is the former principal of Menominee Indian Middle School, a rural public school of 150 students, located on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin. During her tenure (2006-2015), Menominee Indian Middle School was twice named a Wisconsin Middle School of Excellence and was selected as a 2010 MetLife/NASSP Breakthrough School. The staff has also been recognized with the 2015 WEAC Lewandowski Award for Humanitarian Activities and featured in the Leading Success professional development series. Stephanie has presented, both at the state and national levels, on topics ranging from Positive Behavior Management to School Improvement. She holds a BS in Social Science from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, MAE in Educational Leadership from Marian University, and she is currently the Director of Staff Development at Cooperative Educational Service Agency #8, serving 27 school districts in Northeastern Wisconsin.

♦ **James W. Anderson**

ENERGY IS EVERYTHING: Strategies to Bring More Positive Energy to the Classroom

Presentation Date and Time: Thursday, March 24 at 10:00-10:45 am

Learn tools, tips, and strategies to make the classroom exciting, vibrant, and full of learning. As an educator it is our responsibility to educate, inspire, motivate and entertain our students. This full of energy breakout session will pass ideas on to you to bring more life to your classroom.

Anderson is Native America's Success Speaker and son of America's Rib King "Famous Dave" Anderson. More information is available at www.jamesandersonproductions.com.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Competition

The NDDPI will be holding a new grant competition for a three-year 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant from school districts, Regional Education Associations (REAs), consortiums, non-profit agencies, city or county government agencies, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and for-profit corporations. Only entities that currently do not have a program or have an expiring grant may apply. The program's purpose is to establish or expand community learning centers that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities along with activities designed to complement the students' regular academic program. All 21st CCLC grants are awarded on a competitive basis, based on the availability of federal funds.

Eligible applicants are those that meet one of the following requirements:

1. Serve students (and the families of those students) that attended schools that have 40% or greater free and reduced lunch, or
2. Serve students that attend schools operating as Title I schoolwide.

President Obama recently signed the ESSA into law. The NDDPI has received guidance that this law will not go into effect until the 2017-2018 school year. Therefore, this competition will be run according to the regulations outlined in *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB).

The NDDPI plans to announce the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) in late February or early March. The NDDPI will also be holding bidders conferences. NDDPI will hold a live webinar based bidders workshop that will also be posted on the website at the completion of the event. The NDDPI is asking that all eligible entities that are interested in applying complete a letter of intent to assist with determining the number and location of in-person bidders workshops. Please note that the letters of intent are in no way binding. Letters of intent will be posted on the 21st CCLC website at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/21CCLC/.

For more information on the bidders workshop, please email [Josh Sharp](mailto:Josh.Sharp@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2285.



Read Across America

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.
~ Dr. Seuss

Read Across America is celebrating its 19th year of motivating students of all ages to pick up a book to read. This year, students can tip their hats to "Dr. Seuss" himself, as the National Education Association (NEA) shares a number of ideas for their March 2, 2016, kick off for National Read Across America Day, which happens to be the birthday of Dr. Seuss as well.

Follow this link for some fun ideas as you and your schools enjoy the celebration of reading throughout the month: www.nea.org/grants/886.htm.

Advanced Coursework Updates

Research has shown that when students successfully complete advanced coursework, whether it be Dual Credit or Advanced Placement, their readiness for the next level will be higher than that of their peers who do not participate. This success also translates to the success students will experience in their college coursework and college completion. For these reasons, the NDDPI will continue to encourage and support schools and districts providing advanced coursework opportunities for students.

Dual Credit

The department is well aware of the looming issue regarding the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) adoption of policy in determining qualified faculty for Dual Credit Programs. The NDDPI understands the importance of Dual Credit as an advanced coursework option and is working with the North Dakota University System (NDUS) to provide clarification on the HLC policy adoption. Be on the lookout for a joint memo from NDDPI and NDUS on how this policy adoption might look in North Dakota.

To access information on the HLC's Dual Credit policy, please visit www.hlcommission.org/Document-Library/determining-qualified-faculty.html.

Advanced Placement

During the 2015 Legislative Assembly, funding was provided to increase access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses for North Dakota students. Outlined below are two elements the NDDPI is currently working on:

- ♦ AP Exam Fees – It is recognized that having students pay for an exam places extra burden on many of our North Dakota families. To assist in addressing this issue, the NDDPI is working with College Board to buy down the cost of the 2016 AP exams in math (including computer science), science, and English. We hope to finalize these details in early March and will share information with AP coordinators, principals, and superintendents.
- ♦ Grants for AP Summer Institutes – In order to increase student access to AP courses for the 2016-2017 school year, more North Dakota teachers need to receive professional development for facilitating AP courses. The department will be issuing guidance and an application for schools (in conjunction with their district) to seek grant dollars to assist with the costs of getting staff trained in AP math (including computer science), AP science, and AP English courses through AP Summer Institutes (APSI). This information will also be shared with AP coordinators, principals, and superintendents and posted on the department's website at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/AS/AP/.

Should you have questions on advanced coursework opportunities throughout North Dakota, please feel free to email [Ann Ellefson](mailto:Ann.Ellefson@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2488, or email [Russ Ziegler](mailto:Russ.Ziegler@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2629.

Math Leadership Team

The Math Leadership Team started as a cross-state project initiated by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). This project brought teacher leaders from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa together to network, collaborate, and create resources for each state. This collaborative group, along with CCSSO, identified some areas that could help the states in the implementation of their standards.

The group began working on mathematics modules that will be presented and distributed throughout the state when completed. These modules consist of: Collaborative Grouping, Discourse, Effective Questioning, Mindset, Strategies for Modifying Tasks, Using Assessment, and Using Real-World Context. The work that the collaborative team has done is based in part on the book: *Principles to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All* from National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

The North Dakota team consists of: William Martin, Cathy Williams, Nathan Welstad, Michele Iiams, LaCosta Potter, Tammy Meyer, Lynn Mitzel, Rhonda Grindy, and Kristen Monson. These individuals represent higher education, secondary schools, and REAs across the state. As of today, we have three completed modules: Collaborative Grouping, Mindset, and Using Real World Context. The rest of the modules will be completed by the team members shortly. Some of the modules and an overview of the project will be presented at the North Dakota Collaborative Spring Conference on April 22-23, 2016, in Grand Forks, ND.

If you would like more information, please email [Russ Ziegler](#) or call (701) 328-2629.

Parent Involvement Resources



The Office of Indian/Multicultural Education within NDDPI's Division of Student Support & Innovation is developing monthly communication resources for schools to disseminate to parents each month. Research has shown that students do better in school when their parent/guardian is actively involved. A monthly, one-page resource template is available at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/IME/IndianEducation/parentinvolvement/ to assist schools in encouraging parent/guardian involvement. This template is customizable to meet school needs.

Each month, the resource includes ideas and opportunities that could be shared with parents. The resources are certainly not inclusive and staff is encouraged to add their own creative ideas and activities related to North Dakota schools and districts.

North Dakota State Standards Implementation Guide

The North Dakota REAs are excited to announce the availability of a new resource for North Dakota educators. The **North Dakota State Standards (NDSS) Implementation Guide** started through work within the Succeed 2020 grants as a way to provide ongoing support to schools in the transition to and implementation of the new North Dakota State Standards in mathematics and English language arts.

The [NDSS Implementation Guide](#) was developed collaboratively by members of the eight REAs to help define “full implementation” of the North Dakota State Standards. It serves several functions for principals, teachers, and the REAs:

- ◆ Identify key components for full implementation,
- ◆ Establish a common language/common understanding around NDSS implementation,
- ◆ Assist schools in identifying areas for professional learning,
- ◆ And assist REAs in developing and delivering professional learning.

We hope that you will review and use this new resource and share it widely!



SUCCEED2020 ▶
ND Education and Workforce Initiative

New Resource for Support Available!

NDSS.NDSucceed2020.org

Laying the Foundation Registration is Open!

The NDDPI is excited to announce that registration is open for the July 12-15, 2016 Laying the Foundation (LTF) professional development training. The LTF training will be held at Minot High School, 1100 11th Ave. SW, Minot, ND.

The LTF is a program of the National Mathematics + Science Initiative (NMSI). Laying the Foundation provides [math](#), [science](#), and [English](#) teachers with the best content-based, pedagogy-driven, teacher-to-teacher training. The training is held in the proper environment for the subject. The training will help educators with teaching strategies and content knowledge that increase rigor in the classroom and are aligned with state standards. This training is more than just another professional development session; it's an event that offers educators a variety of opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and practice. Teachers who attend our training events receive:

- ◆ Specialized, hands-on and engaging teacher training designed by expert educators for teachers of any level
- ◆ Rigorous, online classroom-ready lessons
- ◆ Vertical alignment across grade levels
- ◆ Ongoing support from expert teachers

Registration:

To register, go to <http://training.nms.org/Portal/Registration/RegistrationMap.aspx>. Payment options are outlined on the final screen of the registration system. For North Dakota educators employed in North Dakota school districts, the \$725 registration fee will be covered through a grant provided to NMSI. The PROMO CODE for these events is NDLTF2016. By entering the promo code, the \$725 fee will be waived for the registrant.

Once registration is complete, participants will receive confirmation directly from NMSI regarding the selected training. Cancellation information is also provided. Please review this information in the event you need to cancel. It is extremely important to cancel if you are unable to attend as the grant provided to NMSI will be charged for each registration. If an individual registers for the training, but fails to attend and does not make alternate arrangements, the district's participation in future NMSI initiatives may be compromised.

Credit:

If participants are interested in pursuing credit for professional development, the NDDPI has secured two credits available through the University of Mary. You can register for credit online at www.hobsonsradius.com/ssc/aform/x7TS5kN6870kx6700kCM.ssc.

Hotel:

A block of sleeping rooms has been set aside at the Grand Hotel in Minot under "NMSI Laying the Foundation". Contact the Grand Hotel to make your reservation. Please note the rooms will be released June 27, 2016.

Questions:

Should you have questions regarding LTF, please feel free to email [Beth Larson-Steckler](mailto:Beth.Larson-Steckler@nddpi.org) or call (701) 328-3544 or email [Ann Ellefson](mailto:Ann.Ellefson@nddpi.org) or call (701) 328-2488.

NDDPI Early Childhood Education Spring Conference

The NDDPI's Division of Student Support & Innovation, Office of Federal Title Programs, with support from the NDDPI Office of Special Education and the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services Division, is pleased to announce the NDDPI Early Childhood Education Spring Conference, to be held in Bismarck on Thursday, April 14, 2016. In addition to an opportunity to network with early childhood professionals from across the state, the conference will feature breakout sessions on topics including school readiness, inclusive environments, developmentally appropriate practices, and other subjects relevant to quality early childhood programs. This conference is intended for anyone with an interest in the early care and education of young children.

The Early Childhood Education Spring Conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm with registration beginning at 7:00 am. There is a \$50 registration fee which is due prior to the conference. North Dakota university/college students may register for a reduced price of \$20. Please visit the NDDPI early childhood website www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ECE/ for more information.

Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECEConference for registration and more information regarding the conference. For questions, please email [Angela Thomas](mailto:Angela.Thomas@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2317.

New Early Childhood Resource: A National and State Resource Guide for Early Learning Providers

The NDDPI identifies with numerous national research that support the positive effects of high-quality early learning programs which leads to strong academic achievement. The impetus for this new guide book, *A National and State Resource Guide for Early Learning Providers*, is to bring together a variety of state and national early learning resources in one document to aide early care and education stakeholders. Although comprehensive, it is not inclusive of all services and resources, rather, it serves as a starting point to available resources and services in North Dakota.

A National and State Resource Guide for Early Learning Providers is organized by North Dakota state departments that have early care and education initiatives and programs; statewide early childhood agencies and associations; licensing, credentialing, and accreditation information; and national early childhood resources. This document may be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ECE/ on the department's early childhood website.

Smart from the Start Awards Grant Opportunity

Seeking early childhood education or Head Start centers which offer a Pre-K program to apply for a \$20,000 cash grant! The Smart from the Start Awards are designed to encourage preschool teachers to create practical, long-term improvements in nutrition and physical activity in their classroom. The Grand Prize is a \$20,000 grant for the preschool and a prize pack of books. Ten second prize \$2,500 cash grants and prize packs of books will also be awarded. **Application deadline is Thursday, March 3, 2016.** More information is available at www.togethercounts.com/sfts/awards.

North Dakota Department of Commerce Early Childhood Grant Applications

As a reminder, the Early Childhood Education Grant program, which was created during the 2015 Legislative session, provides funding for NDDPI approved Pre-K programs at a rate of \$1,000 for each 4-year-old child served that qualifies for a reduced lunch and \$2,000 for each 4-year-old served that qualifies for a free lunch. The program does not need to provide lunch, this is only the income eligibility requirement included in statute.

Please remember that the window to submit grant applications is March 1 to April 1, 2016. The grant review team will review the applications and announce grant awards by June 1, 2016.

To learn more about this grant opportunity, please visit www.workforce.nd.gov/workforce/EarlyChildhoodEducationGrantProgram/, or email [Wayde Sick](mailto:Wayde.Sick@nd.gov), Director, Workforce Division, North Dakota Department of Commerce, or call (701) 328-5345.

Title I Schools List Published

The 2015-2016 list of North Dakota Title I and non-Title I schools has been published. The figures below summarize this information:

- ♦ 267 = Total Title I Schools
 - 119 = Schoolwide Title I Schools
 - 148 = Targeted Assistance Title I Schools
- ♦ 201 = Total Non-Title I Schools

These lists can be found at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/TitleI/ on the Office of Federal Title Programs website.

Academic & Career and Technical Education (CTE) Scholarships Available to North Dakota Students

Non-competitive 4-year awards
~All eligible seniors encouraged to apply~

The application window for the North Dakota Academic and Career & Technical Education (CTE) Scholarships opened January 4, 2016. The scholarships are available to North Dakota residents who graduate from a North Dakota high school, a qualifying high school in an adjacent state, or will complete a state-approved program of home education and meet the remaining academic or CTE requirements.

To date, 8,902 seniors have qualified since its inception in 2009-2010. Parents and students are encouraged to work with their high school counselor and/or career advisor.

The scholarship information can be found at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/TSE/grantsch/scholarship/.

Principal Teacher Evaluation Support Team (PTEST) Update

The PTEST leadership team has been meeting quarterly to discuss ways to provide advice in the leadership and facilitation of the implementation of the North Dakota Principal and Teacher Evaluation Guidelines state-wide. The team membership includes representation from large and small school districts as well as representation from districts implementing the Danielson Model, the Marshall Model, and the Marzano Model for Evaluation.

There are two new developments the team reviewed at the last meeting. The first is the federal ESSA signed into law in December 2015. With the passing of the ESSA, the Principal and Teacher Evaluation is no longer a portion of the ESEA requirements. With the knowledge that every student needs and deserves a strong teacher, it is now up to each state to determine how to measure effective teachers and principals. The ESSA provides flexibility in this area. The work of the PTEST leadership team is more important now than ever before. State plans for the ESSA need to be submitted by August of 2017. The current NCLB requirements are in place until the new plan is approved.

The second new development is the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) Standards, formerly known as the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards. The most obvious change is that the standards have changed from six principles to ten and added clarification on how the standards can be met. The standards also include greater attention to promoting student well-being rather than academic rigor alone. It also factors in principals' abilities to provide instructional leadership. These new standards need to be considered as we move toward implementing changes instituted by the ESSA.

With these exciting new changes on the horizon, the team continues to have discussions on implementing practices and processes for scaling up principal and teacher evaluation models. Some areas of the state held principal rounds, where principals observed a classroom, discussed what they saw, and learned how to hold an effective post conference with the teacher. Teachers have been involved in the evaluation implementation process from serving on the steering committee, to selecting the model, to assisting in selecting the emphasis for each year. Districts can support new teachers by providing a separate training for new staff. Additionally the teacher mentoring program is designed to offer support and assistance.

A Principal Mentoring Pilot Program was started this semester through ND LEAD with support through a grant from NDDPI and fees from participating schools. Six principal mentors were trained by ND LEAD and six schools are using the program. It is anticipated that the principal mentoring program will be offered again next school year.

The team will continue discussing plans to support teachers and principals through ongoing training, sharing ideas between schools, utilizing the listservs and websites, staying updated on the new ESSA and PSEL, and considering other avenues of assistance.

If you have any questions or suggestions in regards to the PTEST, please email [Gail Schauer](#) or call (701) 328-2755.

School Calendar and Storm Days - Weather Related Guidance

An updated guidance document providing information on school calendar days and storms days has been posted on the NDDPI website at www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/128/SchoolCalendarGuidanceFeb2016.pdf.

The guidance clarifies how to identify the number of storms days that must be included in the school calendar. The school calendar must designate a minimum of two days for school closure or more depending on the district's five-year average of school closure days. For example, if the school district's number of school closure days was 15 days over the last five years, the average number of school closure days is three days per year, which is the number of days the districts must build into their school calendar.

When a school must dismiss before completing a full day of instruction, the district must make every reasonable effort to make up the missed instructional time. This can be done in the following ways:

1. Qualifying districts may use one allowed academic day (grace day). A qualifying district is one whose instruction days are at least 30 minutes longer than required by law.
2. Schedule instructional days on the designated snow days included in the school calendar.
3. Make up missed instructional time by lengthening the school day by 30 minutes per day and/or scheduling an instructional day on Saturday.

Once every reasonable effort has been made to make up the missed instruction time, the district may petition the state superintendent of public instruction to forgive those additional days/hours.

If you have any questions relating to school calendar or storm days, please email [Gail Schauer](mailto:gail.schauer@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2755.

NDDPI to Visit Schools during AdvancED Visits

If you were to ask us what jobs we held before we were hired with the NDDPI, most of us would say we worked side-by-side with students in some capacity. That is why we took our jobs with the department; we wanted to further assist schools at a more diverse level. But, what we didn't realize is what we loved so much about education and schools, would be missing when we took our jobs with the department. And that is seeing and working with kids every day...filling our love and passion for kids.

This is an exciting time for the department. We are pleased Superintendent Baesler has modernized protocol by restructuring our duties for site visits. The decorum for the visit will be supportive only. She asks that department staff be present to assist schools. NDDPI staff are not members of the visitation team and this role is not regulatory. This presence during the visit will be to provide assistance with the implementation of the School Improvement Process. Staff will have the opportunity to discuss technical assistance strengths provided by the NDDPI, it will also allow school staff to suggest other areas the department can provide more assistance.

We hope this brief overview of the NDDPI's role during AdvancED visits helps alleviate any apprehension and clarifies our presence at these visits. For us at the NDDPI, we extend our appreciation for allowing us to turn back the clock, if only for a day, to once again be present in schools. As is the case with all of you, we are committed to education and we are loyal to our love and passion for kids.

ELL Resources

New Student Registration

- ♦ Include Home Language Survey in registration
- ♦ Identify through MODEL or W-APT if significant influence of another language exists

Progress Monitoring

- ♦ Meet with teachers and paraprofessionals on students' progress and students' or teachers' needs

ACCESS 2.0 Testing continues through March 4, 2016

- ♦ Continue to administer tests to all current ELL students (NOT 2 yr. monitored students that have exited the program)
- ♦ Document ELL students not tested and the allowable reason for them not testing (will simplify non-participation report later)
- ♦ Issue transfer form for transferring students to ensure test completion
- ♦ Ensure ACCESS Non-Disclosure agreements (Agreement to Maintain Confidentiality) are signed and filed in the district office. Please notice the language on the agreement: TEST IS A SECURE, CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUMENT. YOU AGREE TO NOT REVEAL THE CONTENTS TO ANYONE K-12.
- ♦ Ensure Test Administrators meet training requirements to administer test. Please check this!! Tests become less valid if scored inaccurately.
 - Complete all quizzes through WIDA for the sections of the test being administered
 - Renew speaking test every other year



Speech Language Pathologists

What does the research say about auditory interventions and language therapy?

This systematic review examined research evidence regarding treatment outcomes for primarily auditory interventions (such as FastForWord) and language therapy (such as Earobics or clinician-based interventions) on the auditory functioning in school-age children who were diagnosed with auditory processing disorder (APD) or spoken language deficit(s). A keyword search of 28 electronic databases yielded 192 studies for consideration, which ultimately identified 23 publications that were relevant for the PICO questions posed. Analysis of the research findings reported in these 23 articles revealed **“no compelling evidence** that existing auditory interventions make any significant contributions to auditory, language, or academic outcomes of school-age children who have been diagnosed with APD or language disorder” and that **“clinicians who choose to continue using auditory interventions should do so in conjunction with interventions that target specific language, communication, and academic goals”** (p.254).

Fey, M. E., Richard, G. J., Geffner, D., Kamhi, A. G., Medwetsky, L., Paul, D., Ross-Swain, D., Wallach, G. P., Frymark, T., & Schooling, T. (2011). Auditory processing disorder and auditory/ language interventions: An evidence-based systematic review. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 42, 246-264.

Homeless Update

Resources for Unaccompanied Youth to Obtain Access to Higher Education

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) of 2007 includes provisions to make undergraduate and graduate education more affordable for aspiring social-impact professionals. It also establishes that unaccompanied homeless youth qualify as independent students for purposes of federal financial aid. In addition to the CCRAA, various other national-level supports are available for college-bound homeless students, including fee waivers for Advanced Placement exams, college entrance exams, and college application fees. Resources for unaccompanied youth include:

[July 29, 2015 “Dear Colleague” Letter from the U.S. Department of Education](#)

This letter clarifies determinations for unaccompanied homeless youth for financial aid. The letter provides guidance for financial aid administrators on the definition of homelessness, how to make determinations, and documentation. It revises USDE policy so that all applicants under age 24, including those who are 22 or 23 years old, and who are unaccompanied and homeless, or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, qualify for a homeless youth determination and will be considered independent students.

[NAEHCY Higher Education Helpline](#)

The NAEHCY Higher Education Helpline provides assistance with issues related to students experiencing homelessness accessing higher education. (855) 446-2673 (toll-free); highered@naehcy.org; or text "NAEHCY" to 335577.

[College Access and Success for Students Experiencing Homelessness: A Toolkit for Educators and Service Providers](#)

This toolkit serves as a comprehensive resource on the issue of higher education access and success for homeless students, including information on understanding homeless students, assisting homeless students in choosing a school, helping homeless students pay for application-related expenses, assisting homeless students in finding financial aid and scholarships for school, and helping homeless students succeed in college.

[Dependency Status Appeal Frequently Asked Questions](#)

This NAEHCY tip sheet answers the following questions about FAFSA dependency status appeals: What is a dependency status appeal? Who can request a dependency status appeal? How do I complete FAFSA if I am unaccompanied and homeless, but no longer a youth? Do I need to complete the FAFSA before submitting my dependency status appeal? What documentation do I need to submit with my dependency status appeal?

[Documentation of Independent Student Status for the FAFSA](#)

This template provides local homeless education liaisons, HUD-funded shelter representatives, and RHYA-funded shelter representatives with a sample form for verifying a student's status as an unaccompanied homeless youth for the purpose of applying for federal financial aid for higher education using the FAFSA.

Title I Schoolwide Reminders

2015-2016 SCHOOLWIDE PLANNING YEAR SCHOOLS:

- ◆ Prepare for Mid-Year Review and Feedback – draft of schoolwide plan in ASSIST
- ◆ Continue schoolwide planning team meetings and share information with all staff
- ◆ Complete comprehensive needs assessment process (diagnostics in ASSIST)
- ◆ Complete goals and plans in ASSIST
- ◆ Document required schoolwide components (Schoolwide Assurances in ASSIST)
- ◆ Upload attachments as documentation of Title I Schoolwide Assurances in ASSIST
- ◆ Participate in professional development and/or study groups
- ◆ Ensure ALL paraprofessional instructional staff are highly qualified as documented through a Title I Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion
- ◆ Review schoolwide training materials, reminder memos, and website for resources
- ◆ Schedule and document parental involvement training opportunities

CURRENT SCHOOLWIDE SCHOOLS:

- ◆ Complete documentation for comprehensive needs assessment
 - ◆ Identify and document goals/objectives
 - ◆ Conduct regularly scheduled schoolwide planning team meetings
 - ◆ Update information in selected online tool (NDMILE or ASSIST)
 - ◆ Update schoolwide plan required components with supporting documentation
 - ◆ Participate in professional development and/or study groups
 - ◆ Review schoolwide training materials, reminder memos, and website for resources
 - ◆ Schedule and document parental involvement training opportunities
 - ◆ Prepare time and effort assurance for staff paid with federal funds
 - ◆ Ensure plan is on the right track and updated for the 2015-2016 school year
-

Turnaround Arts: Creating Success in Schools

The NDDPI, in collaboration with the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), has been reviewing a project presented by the President's Committee on Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) called Turnaround Arts. North Dakota has an amazing opportunity to implement a valuable program by reinvesting in arts education and providing schools and teachers with access to arts integration models that result in school reform and closing the achievement gap. After studying the information on Turnaround Arts and participating in a conference call with the USDE, we have applied for the Turnaround Arts program and are now in the process of working with partners and a cohort of schools to identify potential opportunities for advancing arts education and methods for integration in the eligible schools.

As you may know, there is a nationwide concern regarding persistently high dropout rates evidenced by research that schools are no longer able to engage and motivate their students, and students that graduate lack creative and critical thinking skills needed for success in post-secondary education and the workforce. This intensive, research-based program provides technical assistance and resources to support schools' strategic use of the arts in school improvement. The program offers both uniform and customized support to respond to each school's particular school improvement and arts education-related needs.

Our state was invited to apply for this prestigious and selective three-year program and as part of the Turnaround Arts application process, the NDDPI hosted an onsite visit from two members of the PCAH on Monday, February 22, 2016. We expect to hear in mid March if we receive official approval from the PCAH for implementation of the Turnaround Arts Local Program. For more information on this program, email [Stefanie Two Crow](#) or call (701) 328-2287.



Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through Art ND Heritage Center, June 13-17, 2016

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), and North Dakota Council of Humanities (NDCH) are collaboratively hosting the Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through Art training. Beth Olshansky, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Art-Based Literacy at the University of New Hampshire in Durham and author of *The Power of Pictures: Creating Pathways to Literacy Through Art* will facilitate the training.

During this training, participants will learn to combine creativity, rigor, and deep thinking through a progression of art-and-literature-based mini-lessons designed to provide students with an experiential understanding of the key elements of writing including: sense of setting, character and plot development (problem and solution), creating an ending, and use of descriptive words.

The NDDPI along with its partners NDCA and NDCH will offer an enriched learning opportunity for educators to participate in a five-day training and will cover the cost for registration, lunch, and materials to eligible participants that meet any of the following criteria:

1. Educators working in the Bureau of Indian Education schools and/or in schools with a high percentage of Native American students. Native language and culture teachers are highly encouraged to attend.
2. Educators working in a school with a student population consisting of 40% or more poverty rate.
3. Educators working in Title I schoolwide programs.

Daily Schedule

Registration will begin at 8:00 am each day, and the training runs from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Housing

Reserved housing is available through Bismarck State College (BSC) at a rate of \$30 for a single room per night and \$25 for a double room per night. If you intend to take advantage of the housing at BSC, you will be required to indicate this on the registration form, otherwise you are free to arrange your own housing/hotel accommodations.

Graduate Credit

Two graduate credits are available for \$100 through University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, and Minot State University.

Registration

Registration for this training is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q9G2FCF. The deadline to register is March 21, 2016, as commitments for materials and meals must be secured. The following information includes a summary, expected outcomes, and training materials participants will receive.

Additional information on the training can be found at www.nd.gov/dpi/events/PicturingWriting/ on the NDDPI website. If you have registration questions, please email [Jill Frohlich](mailto:Jill.Frohlich@nd.gov) from the NDDPI or call (701) 328-2254. If you have questions regarding the training, please email [Rebecca Engleman](mailto:Rebecca.Engleman@nd.gov) from the NDCA or call (701) 328-7593.

Registration is Open!



Mark your calendars for the 2016 Parent Involvement Conference hosted by Pathfinder Services of ND and NDDPI. Fun, information, and a chance to meet old friends and make new ones!

March 3 - 5, 2016
Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo ND



Register online at our website:
<http://psnd.co/conference>. Check the site for news and schedule updates and follow us on Facebook.



Conference Rate Deadline Extended!

Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo has extended the deadline for registering for hotel rooms at the special conference rate until February 12.

Additional Keynote Speakers:

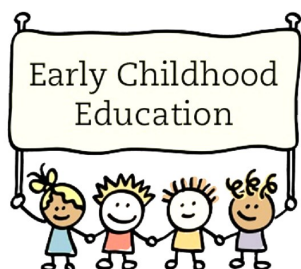
Mark Coppin is the Director of Assistive Technology at the Anne Carlsen Center in Jamestown, ND, where he coordinates the provision of assistive technology services for the Center. He also provides technology evaluations and consultation services throughout North Dakota. He will be speaking on how many of today's technologies can empower students with diverse learning needs.

Susan Williams is from Staples, MN, and has been an English teacher. She will be speaking on Parents Matter: how parents and educators can foster an enduring partnership, built on mutual respect, trust and effective communication.

There is still time to register and for parents, stipends are still available.

Like us on Facebook 

The Division of Student Support & Innovation
is Happy to Announce Numerous Upcoming
Professional Development Opportunities that are Planned for
Spring/Summer 2016



**Early Childhood
Education
Spring
Conference**
April 14, 2016
Bismarck



ND STEM Conference
April 22-23, 2016
Grand Forks
(credit will be offered)



Math Summer Institute
June 13-14, 2016
Mandan *(credit will be offered)*



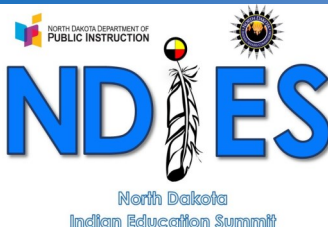
Picturing Writing Workshop
June 13-17, 2016
Bismarck *(credit will be offered)*



Reading Summer Institute
June 21-22, 2016
Mandan *(credit will be offered)*



NSMI Laying the Foundation
July 12-15, 2016
Minot *(credit will be offered)*



**3rd Annual North Dakota
Indian Education Summit**
July 12-13, 2016
Bismarck *(credit will be offered)*

Additional information on all of these events can be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/events/ on the NDDPI website.

6TH ANNUAL NORTH DAKOTA RTI/MTSS CONFERENCE

NDMTSS: A Framework for Success

June 6-8, 2016 | Holiday Inn, Fargo

Mark your calendar today!

The 6th Annual RTI/MTSS Conference is back again this summer, June 6-8, at the Fargo Holiday Inn bringing you more experts from the field along with local and state examples of what this framework could look like in your schools.

North Dakota Multi-Tiered System of Supports (NDMTSS) is a framework that provides all students with the best opportunities to succeed academically and behaviorally in school. NDMTSS focuses on providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need, monitoring progress frequently to make decisions about change in instruction or goals. Data are used to allocate resources to improve student learning and support staff implementation of effective practices.

Essential Components

NDMTSS focuses on five essential components: Assessments; Data-Based Decision Making; Multi-Level Instruction; Infrastructure and Support Mechanisms; and Fidelity and Evaluation.

Attend the 2016 conference to learn more!

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1

Bring a team!

	KEYNOTES	REGISTRATION FEES
1-DAY CONFERENCE Monday, June 6	PBIS Schoolwide Foundations - Randy Sprick Differentiated Instruction - Diane Heacox	\$100 Early Bird: April 1 - 30 \$115 Regular: May 1 - 31
2-DAY CONFERENCE Tuesday, June 7 Wednesday, June 8	Day 2 & 3 keynotes/sessions CHAMPS Training - Mike Bocher NDMTSS Framework for Success - Shannon Harken	\$195 Early Bird: April 1 - 30 \$220 Regular: May 1 - 31
3-DAY CONFERENCE Monday, June 6 Tuesday, June 7 Wednesday, June 8	Days 1 & 2 keynotes/sessions plus Intensive Traumatic Stress - Heather Simonich	\$275 Early Bird: April 1 - 30 \$320 Regular: May 1 - 31

Registration Deadline

MAY 31ST

Want more info? Visit www.ndrti.com for updates including keynote speakers, breakout sessions and more!

Questions? Contact Darlene Pullen (701-858-4702 | darlene.pullen@ndmdec.com) or Sadie Lech (701-952-3220 | lechs@ndseec.com)



Register Now

July 12-15, 2016



NATIONAL
MATH + SCIENCE
INITIATIVE

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Magic City Campus High School
Minot, ND



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Sponsored by the
Division of Student Support & Innovation

Two credits offered

<http://training.nms.org/Portal/Registration/RegistrationMap.aspx>



The poster for the 3rd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit features the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction logo and the NDIES logo. It includes a photo of a woman speaking and a group photo of attendees. A yellow arrow points to the dates July 12 & 13, 2016, with the text 'Save the Date!'.

**3RD ANNUAL
NORTH DAKOTA
INDIAN EDUCATION
SUMMIT**

North Dakota
Indian Education Summit

Save the Date! → **July 12 & 13, 2016**

Brynhild Haugland Room,
State Capital
Bismarck, ND



Connect **2** More

***Other newsletters published by
NDDPI:***

[North Dakota AFTERSCHOOL Update](#)

21st Century Community Learning Centers

[STEAM Newsletter](#)

Title II B—Math Science Partnership

[North Dakota Homeless Education Program](#)

Updates on McKinney-Vento and other
homeless information

[Directions Newsletter](#)

[Roundup Newsletter](#)

[Administrative Updates](#)

Child Nutrition & Food Distribution

[Research/Resources Report](#)

Research and resources on educational issues
relevant to North Dakota schools

[ND ExcELLing Educator](#)

Title III—English Language Learner programs

[ConnectED](#)

NDDPI Quarterly Newsletter

[Flickertail Newsletter](#)

[Discovery Newsletter](#)

North Dakota State Library

Northern Plains

Law Conference on Students with Disabilities



Save the Dates!

**North
Dakota**

Montana

**South
Dakota**

**October 4-5, 2016
Bismarck, ND**

Bismarck Civic Center
315 South 5th Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

October 3, 2016

A Pre-Conference will be held for
School Attorneys, Special Education
Directors and School Administrators

Registration will open in March.

2016 NDDPI Fall Educators Conference

The Conference is a GO!

It is with great pleasure that we announce the NDDPI will once again be offering high quality professional development for our North Dakota educators at the

2016 NDDPI Fall Educators Conference

**IMPORTANT
DATES**



Conference Dates:
October 12-14, 2016

Conference Location:
Bismarck Event Center



Upcoming Events

Additional information regarding NDDPI-sponsored events is available at www.nd.gov/dpi/events/

March 2016	<u>2016 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities</u> March 6-9, 2016 in Oklahoma City, OK
April 2016	<u>Reauthorization Regional Workshop</u> April 7, 2016 in West Fargo, ND <u>Reauthorization Regional Workshop</u> April 12, 2016 in Minot, ND <u>Reauthorization Regional Workshop</u> April 13, 2016 in Mandan, ND <u>2016 2nd Annual Early Childhood Education Spring Conference</u> April 14, 2016 in Bismarck, ND <u>ND STEM Conference</u> April 22-23, 2016 in Grand Forks, ND
June 2016	<u>Math Summer Institute</u> June 13-14, 2016 in Mandan, ND <u>Picturing Writing Workshop</u> June 13-17, 2016 in Bismarck, ND <u>Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) Training</u> June 20-21, 2016 in Bismarck, ND <u>Reading Summer Institute</u> June 21-22, 2016 in Mandan, ND <u>Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) Training</u> June 23-24, 2016 in Fargo, ND
July 2016	<u>Laying the Foundation Training</u> July 12-15, 2016 in Minot, ND <u>3rd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit</u> July 12-13, 2016 in Bismarck, ND
August 2016	<u>Annual School Administrator's Workshop</u> August 3-5, 2016 in Bismarck, ND
October 2016	<u>Northern Plains Law Conference on Students with Disabilities</u> October 3-5, 2016 in Bismarck, ND <u>NDDPI Fall Educators Conference</u> October 12-14, 2016 in Bismarck, ND



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www.nd.gov/dpi

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